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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/629,254	07/31/2000	Stephen D. Dentel	10992740-1	3882

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EXAMINER

SMITH, JEFFREY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/629,254

Applicant(s)

DENTEL ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Smith

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23, 25 and 27-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 24 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9, 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,643).

Cheng et al. discloses a computer implemented method of enabling a user of a processor system to purchase products for use with a component of the processor system (col. 4, lines 12-15). The component may be any one of plural types (col. 6, lines 21-23). The method comprises determining the particular type of the component without input from the user (col. 7, lines 46-48); informing a remote server system via a communications network of the particular type of component (col. 14, lines 38-55); and identifying one or more vendors offering to sell products compatible for use with the particular type of component (col. 12, lines 11-15).

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Cheng et al. further discloses that the steps of determining, informing and identifying are performed in response to a single action by the user (col. 7, lines 6-8).

The method further comprises displaying a list of the one or more identified vendors to the user (col. 7, lines 62-64).

The method additionally comprises the steps of selecting a vendor from the one or more identified vendors without input from the user; and establishing communications via the communications network between the processor system and a second remote server system associated with the selected vendor (col. 10, lines 33-38).

Cheng et al. further discloses that the step of identifying is performed by the remote server system (col. 14, lines 38-44); and that the step of identifying includes searching a database system containing information regarding a plurality of vendors and the products offered for sale by each of the plural vendors (col. 10, lines 26-32).

The method further comprises identifying which of plural products are compatible for use with the particular type of component, where the step of identifying compatible products and the step of identifying one or more vendors are performed by the remote server system (col. 14, lines 45-55).

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The method further comprises informing a second remote server system of one or more of the compatible products via the communications network, where the second remote server system is associated with at least one of the identified vendors (col. 10, lines 33-38).

Cheng discloses a system configured to enable a user of a processor system to locate a vendor selling products for use with a component of the processor system. The component may be any one of plural types. The system comprises software executable by the processor system to determine a particular type of the component without input from the user, and to transmit a purchase request specifying the particular type of the component via a communications network (col. 15, lines 7-27); a server system configured to receive the purchase request from the processor system via the communications network, and to identify one or more vendors offering to sell products compatible for use with the particular type of the component.

The server system is configured to transmit a list of the one or more vendors to the processor system for presentation to the user via a user interface (col. 6, lines 51-62).

The user interface is configured to allow the user to select a vendor from the list, and where the server system is

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configured to forward the purchase request to the selected vendor via the communications network (col. 8, lines 21-50).

Cheng discloses that the user interface is an Internet web page (col. 6, lines 51-62).

The server system is configured to select a vendor from the one or more vendors, and to forward the purchase request to the selected vendor (col. 10, lines 33-38).

The server system further comprises a vendor database system listing a plurality of vendors and the products offered for sale by each vendor, and where the server system is configured to access the vendor database system to identify the one or more vendors.

The server system further comprises a product information database listing a plurality of types of components and the products compatible for use with each component, and where the server system is configured to access the product information database to identify which products are compatible for use with the particular type of the component.

The server system is configured to forward the purchase request and the identity of the compatible products to at least one of the one or more vendors.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10-12, and 21-23, 25, 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,643) in view of Perlman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,585).

Cheng et al. does not disclose that the component is a peripheral.

Perlman et al., in a similar method (col. 2, lines 31-34), teaches that the identification of a peripheral device, such as a printer, is determined. The identification is precise for the peripheral device and is indicative of the type of device, manufacturer, and model number (col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 9). The information is transmitted to a server (5) over a network connection (29). Appropriate products (device drivers) compatible for use with the particular peripheral device is

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downloaded for use with the particular peripheral device (col. 6, line 51-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided the method of Cheng et al. to have included the teachings of Perlman et al. in order to have allowed the peripherals (such as a printer) of an associated processor system to have been provided with compatible products in a manner consistent with the disclosure of Cheng et al. That is, although Cheng et al. does not discuss compatible products for use with a peripheral device of a processor system, Perlman does address providing compatible products for peripheral devices of a processor system.

Regarding claims 11, 12, 23: Although the combination of Cheng et al. and Perlman et al. does not teach print media or an ink cartridge, it would have been well within the level of skill in the art to have specified any compatible product for the particular peripheral device. The skilled artisan would have recognized that the provision of ink and media is akin to the provision of software patches or updates, for instance. All of the provisions of such compatible products would ensure that the particular peripheral device is maintained as being in a condition that is acceptable for use.



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***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 24 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see Paper 13, filed 15 October 2003, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-33 under "Oil Change Online" (Paper 12) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Cheng et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,643) and Perlman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,585).

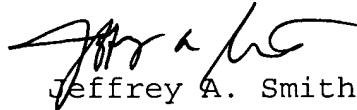
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Smith whose telephone number is 703-308-3588. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 703-308-1344. The fax phone number for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is  
703-305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status  
of this application or proceeding should be directed to the  
receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

  
Jeffrey A. Smith  
Primary Examiner  
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